



## World Para Taekwondo Newsletter

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### Para Taekwondo included in Multisport events

#### 2027 FISU University Games



Italy.

Para Taekwondo has been officially confirmed as a medal event for the **Chungcheong 2027 FISU World University Games**, scheduled to take place in Chungcheong, Korea, in August 2027.

The decision was finalized on January 12 during the FISU Executive Committee meeting held in Torino,

This historic milestone signifies a major step forward for Para Taekwondo, as the sport makes its debut as part of the Games' programme highlighting the event's emphasis on inclusivity and diversity.

The K44, P21 and P22 Sport Classes will be included on the program for the Chungcheong 2027 FISU World University Games.

Read the full article [here](#).

## 2025 World Abilitysport Games

Para Taekwondo has been included on the **2025 World Abilitysport Games** that will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia September 15-20, 2025.



The World Abilitysport Games is a multisport event offering a stage for athletes to gain valuable multisport event experience, develop and hone their skills and to inspire future generations to pursue their passion for sport. World Taekwondo is very excited that Para Taekwondo is back on the program of the World Abilitysport Games and that Para Poomsae will make its first appearance on the Games offering more high level competition opportunity to our athletes in both Para Kyorugi and Para Poomsae.

The 2025 World Abilitysport Games will hold a G2 World Para Taekwondo Ranking status and will include K40, P30, P50 and P70 Sport Classes.

For more information read [here](#).

## 2025 12th Turkish Open Para Taekwondo

# PARA KYORUGI G-2

## 12<sup>th</sup> TURKISH OPEN

08 FEBRUARY 2025 | ANTALYA / TÜRKİYE

Registrations for the 2025 12th Turkish Open Para Taekwondo (Kyorugi & Poomsae) closed on January 31, 2025, with 118 athletes (77M, 41F) from 14 countries registered + refugee team and neutral athletes. This is not only the first time that the Turkish Open Para Taekwondo will hold a G2 World Para Taekwondo Ranking Status it is also the first time that Para Taekwondo Poomsae is included in the tournament, 69 athletes (44M, 25F) from 9 countries and neutral athletes will compete in P20, P30, P50 and P70 Sport Classes.



The starting field includes several of the Paris 2024 Paralympians. Gold medalists Imamaddin Khalilov (Men K44 -70kg) from Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan's Asadbek Toshtemirov (Men K44 +80kg) will start their LA28 Paralympic cycle. The latter, Toshtemirov, has moved up one weight category from his gold medal performance in Paris.

2023 World Champion and Paris 2024 silver medalist Ziyodakhon Isakova (Women K44 -47kg), Georgian Paralympic Bronze medalist Ana Japaridze (Women K44 -52kg) and Greece's Bronze medalist Christina Gkentzou (Women K44 -65kg) are also looking to earn their first ranking points for 2025.

The home team will be represented by big names such as, Mahmut Bozteke Paris 2024 Paralympic Games Gold medalist (Men K44 -63kg), silver medalists Gamze Gurdal

(Women K44 -57kg), Ali Can Ozcan (Men K44 -58kg) and Fatih Celic (Men K44 -70kg), Bronze medalist Meyrem Betul Cavdar (Women K44 -52kg).



## Inclusion and Education



Dear Para Taekwondo Family,

As we begin this exciting new year, I am thrilled to share several significant developments that continue to solidify Para Taekwondo's position as a leading sport in the global Para sport movement.

We are proud to announce the inclusion of Para Taekwondo in two major international multi-sport Games the FISU University Games and the World AbilitySport Games for both Poomsae and Kyurogi disciplines. These milestones not only highlights the growing recognition of Para Taekwondo but also reaffirms its impact and value within the broader Para sport community.

In addition, the World Para Taekwondo Committee has successfully established an Ad-Hoc Committee dedicated to amending the Poomsae competition rules. This initiative aims to ensure greater equity for athletes with impairments and to implement a clear, transparent scoring system that upholds fairness for all. These steps are crucial as we actively work towards the inclusion of Para Poomsae in the LA28 Paralympic Games.

This January, we activated a highly skilled team of educators tasked with expanding knowledge and awareness of Para Taekwondo among coaches, referees, and other officials. Their focus includes training on competition rules, classification and other aspects of our education. This initiative will help elevate the technical and educational standards of Para Taekwondo worldwide.

Furthermore, World Taekwondo is merging its education programs for international referees, enabling officials to officiate across both Olympic and Paralympic events. This integration from the WT leadership reflects our commitment to fostering inclusivity and excellence within the Taekwondo community.

As we move forward together, I am confident that these initiatives will further strengthen Para Taekwondo's foundation, ensuring continued growth and success. I thank you all for your amazing dedication to our shared vision, and we look forward to seeing the incredible progress we will achieve together this year.



***Usman Dildar***

Chair

WT Para Taekwondo Committee



**A Strong End to 2024 and a Promising Start to 2025 for World Taekwondo Classification**

"It was a great end to the year 2024," said Hadwah Moawad, Chair of World Taekwondo Classification Committee, reflecting on the success of the Asian Taekwondo Union (ATU) awareness program. The six-days program, held from December 17-22, 2024, at Sharjah Sports Club, UAE, attracted a strong turnout, with sessions covering Taekwondo Poomsae, Kyorugi, and Para Taekwondo. The event was open to all interested participants, ensuring a broad reach across the Taekwondo community.



The Para Taekwondo sessions featured three expert instructors: Ms. Sahar Moamina (International Classifier) – Led the classification section, providing key insights into the different Sport Classes, impairments, and the whole athlete classification processes. Mr. Mohamed Bin Jamal (ATU Chairman of the Para Taekwondo Committee) – Delivered in-depth training on Para Taekwondo competition rules and scoring systems. Coach/ Abdulqodous Mohammed – Shared valuable coaching perspectives, covering training methods, challenges, and strategies for developing para-athletes. The event saw **109 participants**, including **64 athletes** (48 male, including one P20 athlete, and 16 females, including two wheelchair P50 athletes) and **48 coaches** (32 male, 16 female), with ages ranging from 9 to 50 years old.

### Looking Ahead, 2025 Starts with a Classification Refresher Course

Kicking off 2025, World Taekwondo held the "Classification Refresher Course" on January 23<sup>rd</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>, ensuring participation of all international classifiers. The course aimed to update classifiers on the **2025 International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Athlete Classification Code** and ensure smooth transition and compliance with the code.

A total of **31 international classifiers** attended, comprising **19 male** (9 medical & 10 technical) and **12 female** (7 medical & 5 technical) classifiers. The course provided a

critical opportunity for classifiers to align with the latest updates and enhance their knowledge for the continued development of Para Taekwondo classification.

The momentum from these educational initiatives underscores the commitment of World Taekwondo to advancing Para Taekwondo and strengthening athlete classification with the highest standards.







## **2025**

- **12th Turkish Open Para Taekwondo (G2), Antalya, Turkey**

February 8, 2025

- **British International Open 2025 Para Taekwondo (G1), Manchester, Great Britain**

March 23, 2025

- **WT President's Cup Para Taekwondo Asia (G3), Taian, China**

April 25, 2025

- **2025 Rio Open Para Taekwondo (G1), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**

May 15, 2024

- **World Para Taekwondo Open Challenge (G4), Chuncheon, Korea**

DATE To be confirmed

- **Solidarity Para Taekwondo Open (G1), Montargis, France**

July 4, 2025

- **Solidarity Para Taekwondo Poomsae Open (G1), Montargis, France**

July 4, 2025

- **2025 European Youth Para Games (G2), Istanbul, Turkey (Europe only)**

July 25-27, 2025

- **Asia Para Taekwondo Championships (G4), Kuching, Malaysia (Asia only)**

July 30-31, 2025

- **Asia Para Taekwondo Poomsae Championships (G4), Kuching, Malaysia (Asia only)**

July 30-31, 2025

- **WT President's Cup Para Taekwondo Oceania (G3), Gold Coast, Australia**

August 14, 2025

- **Australia Para Taekwondo Poomsae Open (G1), Gold Coast, Australia**

August 15, 2025

- **Australia Para Taekwondo Open (G1), Gold Coast, Australia**

August 16, 2025

- **2025 World Ability Sport Games (G2), Jakarta, Indonesia**

September 15-20, 2025 (TKD dates TBD)

- **5th Asian Youth Para Games (G2) (Asia only)**

TBC

- **2nd World Para Taekwondo Poomsae Championships (G14), Location TBD**

DATE to be confirmed

- **11th World Para Taekwondo Championships (G14), Location TBD**

DATE to be confirmed

## Around the World

### Mexico selects star-studded national team



Mexico Taekwondo Federation announced their Para Taekwondo National Team on January 20, 2025.

Among the members of the team are Claudia Romero Rodriguez (Women K44 - 47kg) named best female athlete at the 2023 WT Gala. Paris 2024 Paralympic Games Medalists Juan Diego Garcia Lopez (Men K44 -70kg) and Luis Mario Najera

Vleeshower (Men K44 -80kg). Regining World Champion Jessica Berenice Quijano

(Women K44 -52kg) and Santiago Parapan American Games Gold medallists Ivan Torres Perez (Men K44 -58kg) and Fernanda Vargas Fernandez (Women K44 +65kg.

The 14 member strong team will also have a few new faces in the Women K44 -47kg, -52kg, -57kg and Men K44 -70kg, -80kg and +80kg weight categories.

### **British Taekwondo partner with Dwarf Sport Association UK**

British Taekwondo has partnered up with Dwarf Sport Association UK to create "An introduction to Taekwondo for people with Dwarfism", a resource that covers how you can make your club accessible to those who have dwarfism and support their participation in Taekwondo.



World Taekwondo offers a sport class in Para Taekwondo Poomsae on the international stage for persons with short stature, the P72 sport class. The sport class has been included in the World Para Taekwondo Poomsae Championships and is currently growing. The sport class will also be a medal event at the 2025 World Abilitysport Games in Jakarta, Indonesia.

### **2025 Turkish Para Taekwondo National Championships**



Ahead of the 2025 12th Turkish Open Para Taekwondo to be held in Antalya, Türkiye on February 8, 2025, the Turkish Taekwondo Federation held their national championships for selection of their national team on January 12, 2025.

Among the winners several big names emerge, Paralympic Gold Medalist Mahmut Bozteke (Men K44 -63kg), Paralympic Silver Medalists Ali Can Ozcan (Men K44 -58kg), Gamze Gurdal (Women K44 -57kg) and Paralympic Bronze Medalist Meryem Betul Cavdar (Women K44 -52kg). Some new names to look out for are Yusuf Yunacti (Men K44 -70kg) and Busra Emire (Women K44 -47kg).

The Turkish Taekwondo Federation also held national Para Taekwondo Poomsae competitions with participation of over 40 athletes.





## **Japaridze named Sportswoman of the year**

In 2021 Georgia started their Para Taekwondo Team. The first tournament was the Qualification Tournament for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. Georgia missed out on qualification for the Para Taekwondo Competitions of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. However, the first tournament buildt a taste for Para Taekwondo in Georgia and the Georgian Team has been competing actively ever since earning medals at both continental and world level.

Georgia qualified three (3) athletes for the Para Taekwondo Competitions of the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games where Ana Japaridze (Women K44 -52kg) earned a well deserved bronze medal.

For her achivements at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games Japaridze was named Woman Athlete of the Year by the Georgia Paralympic Committee.

The state of Georgia has also upgraded the status of Paralympic medals to be equal to that of Olympic medals.



## **Qatar starts Para Taekwondo program**



The Qatar Taekwondo Federation together with the Qatar National Paralympic Committee has initiated a Para Taekwondo Program.

The Bahrain 2024 World Para Taekwondo Championships was a starting point for many countries in the gulf region for

the development of Para Taekwondo.

Bahrain and Saudi Arabia both sent teams to the Championships. This was the first time the countries participated in Para Taekwondo Poomsae on the international stage. Now Qatar is the next country in the region to start a Para Taekwondo program showing the interest in the sport and its rapid expansion globally.

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